



Department of Defense INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 1332.15

June 1, 1976

ASD(M&RA)

SUBJECT: Early Release of Military Enlisted Personnel for College or
Vocational/Technical School Enrollment

- References: (a) DoD Instruction 1332.15, subject as above, January 26, 1970 (hereby canceled)
- (b) Section 511(d) of title 10, United States Code
 - (c) Section 673(a) of title 10, United States Code
 - (d) [DoD Directive 5500.14](#), "Naturalization of Aliens Serving in the Armed Forces of the U.S. and of Alien Spouses and/or Alien Adopted Children of Military and Civilian Personnel Ordered Overseas," October 30, 1970
 - (e) DoD Instruction 1332.6, "Career Counseling of Military Personnel," July 3, 1969

1. REISSUANCE AND APPLICABILITY

1.1. This Instruction reissues reference (a) to establish Department of Defense (DoD) policy and criteria to be used by the Military Departments in making determinations governing the discharge or release of enlisted personnel from active service prior to expiration of obligated service to enable them to further their education at a college, university or vocational/technical school.

1.2. The principal purposes of this Instruction are to permit the Military Services to encourage military personnel to further their education to the end of becoming more productive and useful citizens and to facilitate the accomplishment of these objectives by sincerely motivated enlisted personnel.

1.3. Reference (a) is hereby superseded and canceled.

2. SCOPE

The provisions of this Instruction cover all military enlisted personnel with the exception of:

2.1. Reservists ordered to active duty for training as provided in reference (b) and Reservists ordered to active duty due to unsatisfactory participation in Reserve assignment, as provided in reference (c).

2.2. Aliens seeking to qualify for citizenship by completion of three (3) years active duty military service unless they are to be transferred to inactive duty in a Reserve component, as provided in DoD Directive 5500.14 (reference (d)).

3. POLICY AND CRITERIA

The following early release policy is established to provide maximum assistance practicable to enlisted personnel who are qualified and who demonstrate a desire to further their college or university studies or train for a specific type of civilian employment at a vocational/technical school.

3.1. General

3.1.1. Implementation of this Instruction is authorized. If implemented the program should apply to applicants who meet the following criteria (see paragraph 3.2., below) under the following circumstances:

3.1.1.1. Enlisted personnel (including aliens transferred to inactive duty in a Reserve component as outlined in DoD Directive 5500.14 (reference (d))) who would be unduly penalized in the pursuit of their education if required to remain in service until expiration of their term of enlistment or induction may be released early subject to meeting all of the criteria shown in paragraph 3.2., below.

3.1.1.2. Separation date will be for the convenience of the Government, but will normally not exceed ten (10) days prior to the class starting date and in no event will exceed thirty (30) days prior to such starting date.

3.1.2. Personnel being separated under this Instruction will, prior to separation, be counseled in accordance with applicable provisions of DoD Instruction 1332.6 (reference e)).

3.2. Criteria

3.2.1. If the program is implemented by a Military Department, the following criteria should be used in making determinations governing the early release of enlisted personnel:

3.2.1.1. In general, personnel who will have a Reserve obligation upon separation will not be released under this program until they have completed a minimum of twenty-one (21) months active duty on their current term of obligated service.

3.2.1.2. The individual's services must not be essential to the mission of his assigned organization.

3.2.1.3. Latest acceptable registration date of school must fall within the last three (3) months of remaining service.

3.2.1.4. Applicants must:

3.2.1.4.1. When applying for separation to attend institutions of higher education, furnish documentary evidence that they have been accepted for enrollment commencing with a specific school term in a recognized institution of higher education in a full-time resident course of instruction leading to an associate, baccalaureate, or higher degree. A recognized institution is one that:

3.2.1.4.1.1. Is listed in the Education Directory for Post-secondary Education¹ published yearly by the National, Center for Education Statistics, Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare; or

3.2.1.4.1.2. Has been determined by the United States Office of Education to be eligible for such listing.

¹ Copies for sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 - Price \$7.70.

3.2.1.4.2. When applying for separation to attend a vocational/technical school, present documentary evidence that they have been accepted for enrollment commencing with a specific school term in a full-time resident course of instruction of no less than three (3) months duration at a recognized vocational/technical school. A recognized school is one that is approved by the cognizant State Board for Vocational Education, or is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association listed by the U. S. Commissioner of Education.

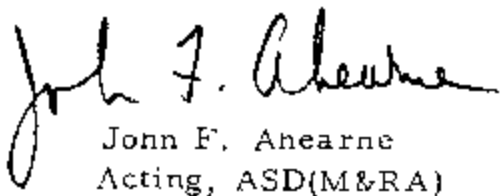
3.2.1.5. The applicant must demonstrate his ability and willingness to make the required payment of an entrance fee, if any, if he has not already done so.

3.2.1.6. The applicant must clearly establish that the specific school term for which he seeks release is academically the most opportune time for him to begin or resume his education and that delay of enrollment until normal expiration of service would cause undue handicap.

3.2.2. The Secretaries of the Military Departments may approve applications not fully meeting the criteria established in subparagraph 3.2.1., above, in exceptional cases.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Instruction is effective immediately. Two copies of implementing regulations shall be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) within 90 days.


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